

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6306

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CG
SUBJECT: LUNDA PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENTS ON GOZ ATTITUDES TOWARD
SHABA

REF: LUBUMBASHI 0661

1. SUMMARY: MEMBER OF GOZ LEGISLATURE MBUNDJI MULOL
DURING CALL ON DCM JUNE 14 EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU.
HOWEVER, HE COMPLAINED THAT SHABANS, ESPECIALLY LUNDA
AND TSHOKWE, ARE LARGELY EXCLUDED FROM NATIONAL LIFE AND
NOW FEEL ESPECIALLY THREATENED BY FAZ.
END SUMMARY

2. ON JUNE 14, SHABAN PEOPLES COMMISSIONER MBUNDJI
KULOL (FROM KAPANGA) VISITED EMBASSY TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL
PROJECT AT SANDOA FOR WHICH HE IS SEEKING FUNDING FROM
GOZ COUNTERPART SECRETARIAT AND AID'S CONCURRENCE ON PROJECT.
HE SAID DOCUMENTATION FOR HIS PROJECT HAD BEEN APPROVED
BY DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COPIES BEING
FORWARDED TO AID. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO TRAVELING TO
SANDOA WITH VICE CONSUL AT LUBUMBASHI ABOUT JULY 5 TO
EXAMINE PROJECT PROSPECTS FURTHER. PROJECT WOULD
INVOLVE PROVIDING FARMERS CATTLE FOR ANIMAL TRACTION AS
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WELL AS HOES, CUTLASSES, AND SEEDS FOR PLANTING BEANS,
CORN, AND PEANUTS.

3. AFTER COVERING MUCH OF SAME GROUND COVERED REFTTEL CONCERNING
TRIBALISM AND REGIONALISM IN ZAIRE, MBUNDJI SPOKE FAVORABLY OF MOBUTU'S

SKILL AT HOLDING COUNTRY TOGETHER, HE SAID THAT SINCE NO SUITABLE

ALTERNATIVE TO MOBUTU IS APPARENT, ALL ELEMENTS OF ZAIRIAN SOCIETY SHOULD SUPPORT HIM IN PRESENT CRISIS. AT SAME TIME, MBUNDJI COMPLAINED THAT MOBUTU IS POORLY INFORMED ABOUT SHABA AND TAKES ADVICE FROM PEOPLE ("MOSTLY TECHNICIANS") WHO ARE UNSYMPATHETIC TO SHABANS' PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO MBUNDJI THERE IS NOT A SINGLE BONA-FIDE LUNDA IN EITHER THE CABINET OR THE POLITICAL BUREAU. MOREOVER, SHABANS ARE SERIOUSLY UNDER-REPRESENTED IN PARA-STATAL ORGANIZATIONS, ARMED FORCES, AND MID-LEVELS OF CIVIL SERVICE. THERE ARE 36 SHABANS IN LEGISLATURE. FOR OVER TWO MONTHS, THIS GROUP HAS ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO OBTAIN AN AUDIENCE WITH MOBUTU TO ASSURE HIM OF THEIR SUPPORT AND TO MAKE A PLEA FOR UNDERSTANDING OF SHABA'S PROBLEMS. HE SAID SHABAN LEGISLATORS HAD CHOSEN SIX OF THEIR NUMBER REPRESENTING MAJOR SUB-REGIONS/ TRIBES AND PROPOSED THAT THIS SMALLER GROUP MEET WITH MOBUTU. LEGISLATORS ARE STILL WAITING FOR RESPONSE.

4. MBUNDJI SAID THAT BY IGNORING SHABANS' ATTEMPT TO COOPERATE WITH HIM, MOBUTU INTENTIONALLY OR OTHERWISE, SIGNALS TO REST OF COUNTRY THAT SHABANS ARE TO BE MISTRUSTED, AND EVEN MISTREATED. THERE IS THUS A SERIOUS DANGER THAT FAZ WILL SEIZE OCCASION FOR UNPRECEDENTED REPRESSIVE ACTS, AGAINST LUNDA IN PARTICULAR. MBUNDJI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ZAIRE'S FRIENDS INCLUDING USG WOULD IMPRESS UPON MOBUTU THAT RECONCILIATION IS KEY TO NATIONAL SURVIVAL. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. MBUNDJI INSISTED THAT SHABAN POPULAR SENTIMENT COULD BE BROUGHT AROUND QUICKLY TO SUPPORT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IF ONLY SOME BASIC STEPS WERE TAKEN BY MOBUTU. FIRST MOBUTU SHOULD RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVE SHABANS (SUCH AS LEGISLATORS) FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. THEN THERE SHOULD BE PUBLIC STATEMENT BY MOBUTU WITHDRAWING CHARGES AGAINST SHABA PEOPLES AND PROPOSING RECONCILIATION. SHABANS SHOULD BE GIVEN MEANINGFUL POSITIONS IN NATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE, INCLUDING MINISTERIAL AND POLITBUREAU POSITIONS, AND SHABAN POPULATION SHOULD BE HELPED BACK ON ITS FEET BY PROVIDING THEM SUCH BASIC ASSISTANCE AS SMALL FARMING TOOLS AND SEEDS.

6. WHEN ASKED WHICH OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRESENT ADVISORS COULD BE CONSIDERED TRUE PROPONENTS OF SHABANS' CAUSE, MBUNDJI SAID THEY ARE FEW AND FEARFUL. ONE NOTABLE EXCEPTION, HE SAID, IS UNCLE LITHO, WHO HAS SPOKEN OUT COURAGEOUSLY IN DEFENSE OF SHABANS AND ADVOCATED THEIR FULL PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE. CUTLER

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